



WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE 2015

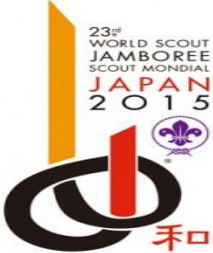
Somerset Unit Newsletter

Volume One – January 2014

Welcome to the first newsletter from the Somerset Unit going to the 23rd World Scout Jamboree 2015.

The newsletter will be published every three months between now and the Jamboree with one final communication coming out shortly after the Jamboree in 2015. The aim of these newsletters is to keep all Leaders and Young People from all over Somerset informed on what is happening in the lead up to the largest international gathering of Scouts at the 23rd WSJ in 2015. They will also tell you all about the life changing experiences and stories after the event.

The hope of this first newsletter is to give anyone who has or is going to apply a little information on the Jamboree and introduce the unit leaders that will be taking the unit through the training that is the 'Road to Japan' and supporting them every step of the way over the next 2 years.



Jamboree Site - Kirara-hama, Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan
Jamboree Date - 28th July – 8th August 2015
Age Criteria - Scouts and Explorer Scouts born between 28 July 1997 and 27 July 2001
Theme of the Jamboree - "WA: a Spirit of Unity". The Kanji Character "和" (WA) embraces many meanings such as unity, harmony, cooperation, friendship and peace. WA also represents Japan and its culture.



Activities at the Jamboree will include:

- **A Peace Programme which will include a visit to Hiroshima.**
- **Global Development Village**
- **Exploring nature**
- **City of Science**
- **Community Projects**
- **Cross Road of Culture**



ARE YOU SUPPORTING YOUR SOMERSET UNIT! Follow us on Facebook – Somerset Scouts, Twitter - @somersetwsjunit and the web – www.somersetscouts.org.uk/japan2015 site for upcoming fundraising events, general information and how to get your hands on the must have jamboree merchandise.



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Meet the Team

Kevin Bull – Unit Leader

As I enter my 28th year in scouting I am as excited as when I first joined Great Lyde (Yeovil) in 1986 as a Beaver after my Dad helped to build the hall some four years earlier. I worked my way through Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Ventures Scouts to become an assistant cub leader in 1998, in 2008 I took over as Leader of Thursday night scouts which are now known as the Blue Eagle Scouts.

During my time I gained the highest awards in each section culminating in achieving the Queen Scout award; allowing me to take part in the St George's day parade in Windsor, an experience I will never forget, meeting Prince Phillip.

I also run the Yeovil District Scout kayaking and canoeing club which meets every Tuesday over the summer months. Last year we saw approximately 300 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorer Scouts, Guides, Senior Section and Leaders pass through, one night fun sessions or three week courses.

I truly hope after a positive selection process the leadership team alongside the successful young people can spend the next two years together building a great unit that will ensure we all enjoy the build-up and exciting journey to a once in a life time adventure to the world jamboree.



Rob Cash – Assistant Leader

I started scouting at the age of 6 as a Beaver at St Andrews Scout group (Yeovil District) and progressed through the Cub, Scout and Explorer sections, becoming a leader 8 years ago. During my time in scouting my proudest achievement was meeting the Queen after achieving my Queen Scout Award.

I started a Leadership role as an Assistant Cub Scout Leader at St Andrews for 5 years, before stepping up to the Scout leader role for a further year. In 2011 I took a break from scouting whilst travelling the world visiting Europe, the Far East, Australia and New Zealand. Now back, I am an Assistant Explorer Scout Leader at Coker Crusader.

My International experience started when I was still a scout, where I went to Switzerland for a summer camp. Since then I have been a member of IST for Essex International Jamboree where I spent the week as an Archery Instructor. A year later I went to the Kent International Jamboree with my Explorer Unit meeting many different nationalities.

I am really honoured to have been selected as a leader for the WSJ Japan and excited about the journey ahead. My nickname is Smiler and as the name suggests I am keen to bring fun and laughter to the Unit.





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Meet the Team

George Puplett – Assistant Leader

Age 44, Married to Anne with 2 children. Hannah age 17 and Stuart aged 14. The whole family is involved in Scouting. My hobbies are playing hockey, walking, watching football, listening to music I have been to America, Majorca, Austria, Zante, Crete, Tunisia, Portugal, France, Holland, Denmark and Sweden
Scouting highlight so far: Visiting the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden.

I am currently the Scout Leader for 1st North Petherton Scouts. Myself and my wife started the Scout section up in 2008 after seeing the Scout Centenary celebrations on TV. We thought that it looked amazing and would like to give young people in North Petherton the opportunity to experience scouting activities. We have 20 Scouts at the moment in the troop and many previous Scouts have moved on to Explorers and some have become Young Leaders. In 2011 my daughter, Hannah, was lucky enough to be chosen for the WSJ in Sweden. She had such an amazing time which was a life changing experience. We visited her at the Jamboree site for a couple of days and I cannot describe the atmosphere, it really was indescribable. I am truly honoured and excited to be chosen as an Assistant Leader for the 23rd World Scout Jamboree 2015 in Japan. I look forward to meeting the young people who are going to experience this with us and cannot wait to get started with the preparations.



Kasey Metters - Assistant Leader

I have been involved in guiding on and off since becoming a brownie (a long time ago). I am currently Unit Leader for 1st St Breward Guides, in Cornwall, we are a very active group taking all of the opportunities that come our way including taking part in the Prince of Wales Community Safety Award which climaxed in the opportunity to meet the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall.

I have taken part in several International Jamborees in the UK (Kernow, Norjam, Camjam, Poacher, WINGS) as both a participant and as Service Crew, although I'm sure that they will compare in no way to the WSJ in Japan.

I was also given the opportunity to take part in a trip to Bratca, Romania to carry out a project at an orphanage, a life changing opportunity.

I really enjoy travelling, and the opportunity to immerse myself in the cultures and lifestyles of others, a WSJ seems to me to be an opportunity to be surrounding by the entire world, I cant wait!





Young People Selection

We are now accepting applications from youth members who wish to be considered for a place in the Somerset Unit.

If you are interested you will need to:-

Complete and submit the WSJ youth selection application form by January 24th 2014

Attend a selection day at Huish Woods Scout campsite (near Taunton)

- 1st March 2014 – Yeovil, Frome, South Somerset

- 2nd March 2014 – Camelot, Taunton, Sedgemoor, West Somerset

Everyone from your district will attend on the same day, arriving at Huish Woods at 9.30am. You will need to arrive in full uniform and have at least one change of clothes. The day will be spent mostly outdoors and you will be undertaking various activities, so please bring sufficient suitable clothing, waterproofs and footwear in a named bag.

You will be ready to be collected at 4.00pm.

Some of those who attend for the initial day will then be invited to spend a weekend at Tedbury Scout Camp (near Frome) for the final selection. This will be held on 21st – 23rd March 2014.

Please go to <http://somensetscouts.org.uk/japan2015/young-people/> to find all the information and the youth application forms

Final words for volume 1

While the unit leader team and the county have been working very hard in the background we are all aware it will only get tougher in March; the challenge of helping 36 young people raise the £3k each needed to reach Japan is no small feat and can only be achieved if we all work together.

The 'Road to Japan' will be tough and long but also great fun, a team will develop and grow together, not only facing the challenges but overcoming them as one.

I feel truly honoured to be leading Somerset to Japan and along with my assistant unit leaders wish each and every applicant the best of luck in the selection process and look forward to meeting you all at Huish Woods.

Yours in Scouting, Kevin Bull – Somerset WSJ Unit Leader

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